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Senate

The Senate met at 5 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable DON NICKLES, a Senator from the State of Oklahoma.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Wondrous sovereign God, giver of every good and perfect gift, in this Thanksgiving season we express gratitude for Your many blessings. Thank You for military people in harm's way who sacrifice to keep us free. Be with their families during this season of gratitude. Thank You for emergency personnel who will work this Thanksgiving to keep America safe. Bless them with Your peace. Give prayerful mercies to the many who will journey to see loved ones.

In these challenging times, Lord, rule our world by Your wise providence. Sustain our Senators, enabling them to leave a legacy of excellence. As you remind them of Your precepts, guide them with righteousness and integrity. You are our help and our shield, and we wait in hope for You. Amen

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable DON NICKLES led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read a communication to the Senate.

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 24, 2004.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule 1, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable DON NICKLES a Senator from the State of Oklahoma, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. NICKLES thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kentucky is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I thank the occupant of the chair.

SCHEDULE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Senator REID and I did not expect to be back so soon, but we are here again for a very brief session. We convene to consider two housekeeping matters that have been received from the House. The House has not yet acted on the concurrent resolution which will correct the enrollment of the consolidated or Omnibus appropriations measure. Without that House action we will be unable to transmit the conference report to the House so that they may then transmit the bill to the President. Therefore, we are here today to pass a short-term continuing resolution which is at the desk.

MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

Mr. MCCONNELL. Having said that, I now ask consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of House Joint Resolution 115 which is at the desk; provided further that the joint resolution be read three times and passed, that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 115) was read the third time and passed.

CONDITIONAL RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the House message accompanying the adjournment resolution.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

H. CON. RES. 529

Resolved, That the House agree to the amendment of the Senate to the resolution (H. Con. Res. 529) entitled "Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate", with the following House amendments to Senate amendment:

(1) On page 1, line 2, before "on a motion" insert "or on Saturday, November 27, 2004."

(2) On page 1, line 8, strike "Wednesday, November 24" and insert in lieu thereof "Saturday, November 27".

Mr. MCCONNELL. I further ask the Senate concur in the amendments of the House.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

AMENDING THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE ACCESS ACT OF 1999

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 659, H.R. 4012.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4012) to amend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999 to reauthorize for five additional years the public school and private school tuition assistance programs established under the Act.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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